

REVERBERATION

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A weekly echoing the mood of the people, comes to you on every Monday

PM's address to Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre, Ontario, Canada

PIB Delhi, May 01: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre (SMCC), Markham, Ontario, Canada on the occasion of inauguration of Sardar Patel's Statue there via a video message.

At the outset, the Prime Minister conveyed his greetings on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Gujarat Day. He

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Deptt. of S&T implementing Women Scientist Scheme & DST-Young Fellowship Scheme

Port Blair, May 1

The Govt. of India, Ministry of Science & Technology is implementing two flagship schemes namely Women Scientist Scheme and DST - Young Fellowship Scheme. The Women Scientist Scheme is introduced to give a strong foothold into the scientific profession and to encourage women in S & T domain, preferably those having a break in career and not hav-

ing regular employment, to explore possibility of re-entry into the profession and research field. Any women scientist between the age of 27-57 years who has a break in their career but desire to return to mainstream can avail benefit out of this scheme. The scheme is open throughout the year, therefore there is no last date of application. The Young Scientist Fellow-

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Projects under RURBAN Mission inaugurated by Secretary (RD/Panchayat) at GP - TUSHNABAD



Port Blair, May 01:

Shri Suneel Anchipaka Secretary RD/P in the presence of Shri Vinay Kumar Jindal Director RD/P and PRI members inaugurated Vegetable Market at Tushnabad Junction and Waiting Shed for 20 Commuters at Tushnabad under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) at Tushnabad. Dedicating the assets for public usage, the Secretary congratulated the villagers of Gram Panchayat - Tushnabad, PRI members for the work and requested to make good use of the asset. The passenger waiting shed

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Cleanliness Drives conducted in various Gram Panchayats under SBM-G in A & N islands



Port Blair, May 01:

As part of the ongoing 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating the 75 Years of India's independence and complying to the directions of the Directorate of RD, PRIs and ULBs, all Gram Panchayats in the Islands, conducted massive

clean-up drives under Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen towards its vision to eradicate all types of wastes, to ensure proper Solid and Liquid Waste Management and to make all rural areas visibly clean to realize the goal of Zero Waste Islands. PRI mem-

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PBMC invites registration for participation in 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge'



India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Startup Challenge
Under AMRUT 2.0, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

PARTICIPATE NOW
Last Date to Apply : 11th May, 2022

#AMRUT4Startups

100 Startups to get 20 Lakhs each

Port Blair, May 1

The Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC) has invited registration for Na-

tional Level 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under AMRUT 2.0, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with

the aim of encouraging start-ups to address challenges in the urban water sector. The

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EDITORIAL

Trim cess for more fair play in fuel tax

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for 'cooperative federalism' has cheered off the non-BJP ruled states. At the Covid-19 review meet with chief ministers early this week, Modi underscored the need for fuel tax cuts and singled out seven states for not reducing state VAT on petrol and diesel in line with the Centre's excise duty reductions last November. States wasted no time accusing the Centre of 'coercive, not cooperative' practices given their economic distress due to rising social welfare expenditure. Critics also point towards the Centre's discrimination of states making fish of one, flesh of the other, while in reality it itself hasn't rolled back all of the pandemic-era excise duty hikes. Moreover, even in states that reduced VAT, the reduction is just pin money.

The tax-cut reminder also smacks of political parties' self-fulfilling philosophy of—politics today, economics tomorrow. Far from reducing excise duties, the Centre last month slapped us with 14 price hikes in 16 days flat. Fuel prices are market driven, but the flurry of paisa-by-paisa tax hikes followed only after a 137-day price freeze when Assembly elections concluded.

The unwillingness of states on fuel taxes largely stems from their sensitive finances. With the GST rollout, states have only two key components to tinker with—fuel and liquor taxes. Incidentally, both fetch handsome revenue, which is why both the Centre and states want their fill. The Centre had earned about '8 lakh crore from fuel taxes in the last three years, the highest being last fiscal at Rs 3.71 lakh crore. However, very little was shared with the states as the divisible pool is steadily shrinking. For instance, if about 41% of the Central taxes on diesel were shared with states in FY15, thanks to high cesses, it has fallen to a jaw-dropping 5.7% now. This prompts an apt reminder to the Centre of the first rule of leadership: Everything is your fault. Perhaps restructuring fuel taxes with higher base tax and lower cesses will increase states' outgo and as a bonus, pass-through to consumers will be fairer than now.

MP demands helicopter service between Port Blair and Shaheed Dweep, twice a week



Port Blair, May 01:

The Member of Parliament of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Mr. Kuldeep Rai Sharma has requested the Chief Secretary of Andaman and Nicobar Administration to schedule helicopter service for Shaheed Dweep for at least twice a week and to give adequate publicity regarding this so that people of Shaheed Dweep and tourists can make use of such service.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary the Member of Parliament

mentioned that a large number of residents of Shaheed Dweep (erstwhile Neil Island) have approached him with a demand to resume helicopter service between Port Blair and Shaheed Dweep.

He said that Helicopter service to other Islands is immensely beneficial for the general public, including patients, senior citizens, divyang brothers as well as sisters and hence such a facility is required for Shaheed Dweep also.

He pointed out that many senior citizens, who are unable to travel by ferry, would prefer to travel to Port Blair for medical, official, and legal purposes in a helicopter. These people are unable to visit Port Blair because there is currently no helicopter service for Shaheed Dweep. The Member of Parliament added that other than this

helicopter service is required for high-value tourists and business owners who contribute to Shaheed Dweep's local economy.

He pointed out that without use, the lone Helipad of Shaheed Dweep is also getting damaged and hence during true emergency landing of Helicopter at Shaheed Dweep might become difficult. Regular use of the helipad will ensure proper upkeep of the Helipad, which is crucial for emergency operations.

Considering all these issues and genuine demands of people of Shaheed Dweep, the Member of Parliament requested the Chief Secretary to schedule helicopter service for Shaheed Dweep for at least twice a week and to give adequate publicity regarding this so that people of Shaheed Dweep and tourists can make use of such service.

e-Learning Studio, Math Magic & Linguistic Study Lab inaugurated; to provide effective hands on training to trainees

Port Blair, April 29

The e-Learning Studio, Math Magic & Linguistic Study Lab at Dr. S. Radhakrishnan District Institute of Education & Training (DIET), Garacharma and Mini Library at Men's and Women's Hostel attached to DIET was inaugurated. The establishment of e-learning studio will provide hands on training for Pre-Service Teachers and In-Service Teachers on e-content development and it will be a UT repository for Open Educational Resource (OER). The Math-Magic Lab will develop

mathematical aptitude & attitude and critical thinking among the trainees & it will enable the teachers to demonstrate, explain & reinforce abstract mathematical ideas by using concrete objects, models, charts, graphs, pictures etc.

The Linguistic Study Lab will improve the verbal & spatial abilities of the trainees and it will improve the pronunciation among the students while the Mini Library will serve as a store house of knowledge and develop reading habits among the inmates

of the hostels. Prior to the inaugural ceremony, a plantation drive of fruit bearing plants was held in the premises of DIET.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director (Education) lauded the efforts of the Principal and the Faculties for utilizing the grants sanctioned under Samagra Shiksha centrally sponsored scheme of GoI in a lucrative manner. He also released a booklet- Shaikshik Yatra highlighting the achievements of the overall academic outlook of the institution, a press release from DIET said.

Stadium to be built in Neeraj Chopra's native village: Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar

PTI, CHANDIGARH, May 01:

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday announced that a stadium will be built in Olympic gold-medallist Neeraj Chopra's native village in Panipat.

Making the announcement after inaugurating a co-operative sugar mill in Panipat, the chief minister said Neeraj Chopra, who belongs to Haryana, has made the country and the state proud by winning an Olympic gold

medal last year.

"A stadium would be built in Neeraj Chopra's village for Rs 10 crore," he announced.

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's native village Khandra is in Panipat.

Last year, Chopra became the first Indian to win a gold medal in Olympic track and field.

Khattar said that Haryana has become a sports hub and players from the state have brought laurels at various na-

tional and international level sporting events.

Haryana is also giving the highest prize money to its players, he said.

Khattar also said the Khelo India Youth Games-2021, which had to be postponed multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be organised in the state from June 4 to June 13.

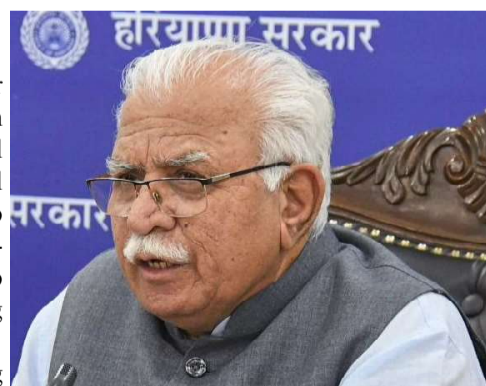
Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the sugar mill, Khattar said Haryana's

biggest sugar mill has been made functional and farmers will not have to transport sugarcane to neighbouring states.

Ensuring the well-being of each farmer is the utmost priority of the state government, the chief minister said.

Haryana is the only state

to procure 14 crops at minimum support price and is paying the highest procurement rate of sugarcane in the country, he added.



Energy security to be among key areas of talks during PM Modi's 3-nation visit

PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01: Energy security will be among key areas of discussions during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Sunday.

Modi begins his visit to the three countries on Monday.

At a media briefing, Kwatra said the overall focus of the talks will be to broaden the bilateral engagement, but noted that the situation in Ukraine is set to come up in his talks.

The foreign secretary said energy security has assumed



greater significance in the backdrop of the current geopolitical developments and the issue will figure in Modi's talks with European leaders.

About the conflict in

Ukraine, Kwatra said India always maintained that there should be cessation of hostilities in that country and the crisis should be resolved through dialogue.

EV fire incidents will be probed; industry bound to grow: Road Transport secretary Giridhar Aramane

PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01: Amid multiple cases of electric two-wheelers catching fire, Road Transport and Highways Secretary Giridhar Aramane on Sunday said each and every incident will be probed and asserted that the Indian EV industry is bound to prosper and grow beyond 'our imagination'.

Aramane further said the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has achieved an overall asset monetisation value of about Rs 21,000 crore in FY22 as part of the Centre's National Monetisation Pipeline. "Each and every incident (of electric vehicles catching fire) will be probed into," he told PTI in an interview.

Recently, there have been multiple incidents of electric vehicles (EVs) catching fire and resulting in deaths and severe injuries to people.

Asked if the spate of high profile battery fires is undermining India's bid to become a leader in EVs, Aramane said not necessarily, if the manufacturers quickly establish necessary functional safety protocols, quality control and quality assurance systems. "The Indian EV industry is bound to prosper and grow beyond our imagination," he asserted.

Aramane said an expert panel that has been formed to enquire into the matter has not submitted its report. "All the problems and the procurement, design, management, operations, manufacturing of the batteries and electric ve-



hicles have to be examined," he said, adding following that appropriate recommendations will be given.

Recently, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, who is known for his frank views, had said the companies found negligent will be penalised and a recall of all defective vehicles will be ordered after the expert panel submits its report.

The government had ordered a probe last month after an e-scooter launched by ride-hailing operator Ola's electric mobility arm caught fire in Pune.

The Centre for Fire Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) had been asked to probe the circumstances that led to the incident and also suggest remedial measures, according to the road transport ministry.

The ministry had asked CFEES to share the findings along with its suggestions on measures to prevent such incidents. So far, three Pure EV, one Ola, two Okinawa, and 20 Jitendra EV scooters have caught fire.

To a question on asset monetisation, Aramane said:

"Last year (2021-22 fiscal), we did more than Rs 15,000 crore of asset monetisation, we also got around Rs 5,000 crore through securitisation of toll. So, overall around Rs 20,000-21,000 crore was real accrued to the ministry by asset monetisation."

In August 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the Rs 6-lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) over four years to unlock value in infrastructure assets across sectors.

Asked if he is still confident of completing projects under the Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana by 2022-23, the transport secretary said, "Because we started one year late, instead of 2017-18, we started in 2018-19, so it will go up to 2023-24."

The government's flagship programme for national highways, Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) Phase-I, was initially proposed to be completed by 2022. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had in 2017 given investment approval for Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana, spanning a period of 5 years.

Bharatmala Pariyojana

1988-batch IFS officer Vinay Mohan Kwatra takes charge as new External Affairs secretary



PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01: Seasoned diplomat Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Sunday took charge as India's new External Affairs secretary at a time New Delhi is dealing with various geopolitical developments including the crisis in Ukraine.

A 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Kwatra succeeded Harsh Vardhan Shringla who retired from service on Saturday. Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal before assuming the charge of the foreign secretary.

"Shri Vinay Kwatra assumed charge as Foreign Secretary today morning. #TeamMEA wishes Foreign Secretary Kwatra a productive and successful tenure ahead," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted on Sunday.

Kwatra is known to be having extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighbourhood as well as the US, China and Europe. He took

charge as the foreign secretary at a time India is dealing with various geopolitical developments including the Ukraine conflict, the severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka and situation in Afghanistan and developments in the Indo-Pacific.

Before his diplomatic posting to Nepal in 2020, he served as the Ambassador of India to France from August 2017 to February 2020. A career diplomat with over 32 years of experience, Kwatra has also held the position of a Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for two years between October 2015 and August 2017.

Kwatra headed the Policy Planning & Research Division of the Ministry of External Affairs between July 2013 and October 2015 and later served as the head of the Americas Division in the Foreign Ministry where he dealt with India's relations with the US and Canada.

Phase-I includes the development of about 24,800 kms of national highway network such as economic corridors, inter-corridor and feeder roads, national corridors efficiency improvements, border and international connectivity roads, coastal and port connectivity roads, expressways as well as 10,000 kms of roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

Asked about the ministry's plan to connect 112 aspirational districts, he said

these districts need development and thus need to be connected with the employment-generating centres and manufacturing hubs.

"Several of them will be covered through the national highways which are getting developed under the Bharatmala Pariyojana and our national infrastructure pipeline. So, remaining also we will try to cover through the annual action plans of the ministry over the next 4-5 years," Aramane said.



Economist Suman Bery takes charge as NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman



PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01:

Eminent economist Suman Bery on Sunday took charge as the Vice Chairman of the government think tank NITI Aayog, according to an official statement. Bery has previously served as Director General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the global chief economist of Royal Dutch Shell.

He was also a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Statistical Commission and the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy. "NITI Aayog welcomes Suman Bery as NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman with effect from May 1, 2022," the statement said.

An experienced policy economist and research administrator, Bery has replaced Rajiv Kumar as the vice chairman of the government think tank. Kumar took over as vice chairman of NITI Aayog in

August 2017 after the then VC Arvind Panagariya exited the government think-tank to return to academics.

"Rajiv Kumar leaves me a dynamic organisation with lots of fresh, young talent and strong links with stakeholders inside and outside the government. I am deeply honoured to have been entrusted with its charge at a time of great global uncertainty," the statement quoted Bery as saying.

According to Bery, NITI Aayog's challenge is to develop a vision of the way ahead based on deep analysis and wide debate and to work with India's states, which is where economic development ultimately happens.

He noted that India's economic and social choices are of significance to the entire world. Bery's recent affiliations include senior visiting fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi; non-resident fellow at Bruegel, Brussels; and Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC.

12 passengers injured as SpiceJet's Mumbai-Durgapur flight faces severe turbulence



PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01: At least 12 passengers on SpiceJet's Mumbai-Durgapur flight were injured on Sunday when it faced severe turbulence during descent, sources said.

The injured passengers have been taken to hospital, they said.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On May 1, SpiceJet Boeing B737 aircraft operating flight SG-945 from Mumbai to

Durgapur encountered severe turbulence during descent which unfortunately resulted in injuries to a few passengers."

Immediate medical assistance was provided upon the aircraft's arrival in Durgapur, the spokesperson said.

"SpiceJet expresses its regret at this unfortunate incident and is providing all possible medical help to the injured," the spokesperson added.

Free education to be offered to children of Kashmiri pandits

PTI, MANGALURU, May 01: An educational institution in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka has announced that they will provide free education for children of Kashmiri pandits who had been displaced from their homeland and had settled elsewhere in the country.

Ambika Mahavidyalaya in Puttur taluk of Dakshina Kannada district is the institution which has come forward with the offer.

The institution's convenor Subramanya Nattoj making the announcement at a press meet at Puttur on Saturday, said he was moved by the plight of Kashmiri pandits after watching the film 'The Kashmir Files.'



Nattoj visited Jammu and after studying their situation, took a decision to impart free education to the children of all displaced Kashmiri pandits. He has chalked out a plan to provide free education from sixth standard to graduation for Kashmiri students. He has also announced free hostel facility for them.

The cost of a student's education at the institution will be around Rs 80,000 and the facilities to be provided will cost Rs 50,000 in a year. All these will be provided free for children of Kashmiri pandits, he said.

Nattoj said four children of Kashmiri pandits have already been admitted to the institution.

Press Association condemns 'beating' of journalist at Arvind Kejriwal, Bhagwant Mann event; seeks probe

PTI, NEW DELHI, May 01: Press Association on Sunday condemned the alleged roughing up of a journalist by authorities during a press conference of the Delhi and Punjab chief ministers recently.

In a statement here, the Press Association has demanded a thorough investigation followed by strong action against those responsible for the April 26 incident.

Naresh Vats, a correspondent with Hindustan Post, has lodged a complaint at the Parliament Street police station contending that authorities refused to acknowledge the accreditation card issued by the Press Information Bureau



and denied him entry to the press conference addressed by Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann.

Vats, in his complaint, alleged that he was bashed by the security personnel at the venue after he questioned their decision to deny him en-

try for the press conference.

"Off late, incidents of harassment of journalists in various states ruled by parties of all hue have come to light. Such incidents are an infringement upon the rights of the journalists," Press Association president C K Nayak said.

Security forces detect three IEDs in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district

PTI, CHAIBASA, May 01: Security forces on Sunday detected three improvised explosive devices kept hidden by CPI (Maoists) in a jungle in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, police said in a statement.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces comprising CRPF and district armed force launched a special search operation in the Maktulor jungle under the jurisdiction of Tonto police station on the directive of Superintendent of Police, Ashutosh Shekhar.

In course of the operation,



the security personnel stumbled upon three IEDs kept hidden under stones, the statement said.

The IEDs each weighing

5 kg were planted by Maoists to target security personnel.

The bomb disposal squad defused the explosive devices in the jungle.

Projects under RURBAN..... from page-1

which was a long run demand of the Gram Panchayat Tushnabad has also been realized for the people of Tushnabad. It is quipped with properly ventilated waiting shed and attached toilet facilities for male, female and differently abled, which is a good initiative and can be taken as a model passenger waiting shed by the other Gram Panchayats for the betterment of the public. The Sanctioned amount for the Vegetable Market at Tushnabad Junction was Rs 68,68,628/- and the Tender amount was Rs. 57,99,837/-. The Sanctioned amount for the Waiting Shed at Tushnabad was Rs 23,15,394/- and the Tender amount was Rs.19,99,278/-

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is an attempt to make the rural areas socially, economically and physically sustainable regions. The Mission strives to strengthen rural areas by providing economic, social and infrastructure amenities, thus leading to sustainable and balanced regional development in the country. The Vision is to "develop a cluster of villages that preserve and nurture the essence of rural community life with focus on equity, and inclusiveness, without compromising with the facilities perceived to be essentially urban in nature, thus creating a cluster of urban villages".

A special Gram Sabha was also organized at community hall at Tushnabad. Shri Anand Amrit Raj, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Tushnabad commenced the Gram Sabha by welcoming the Secretary RD/P, Director RD/P, AC Settlement along with other

line department officials and Panchayat members. He thanked the administration for lending their helping hand specially Police & Health Department during the Covid-19 Pandemic situation for their remarkable works. A short documentary on Water Sufficient Village was screened which depicted the geographical details of the GP Tushnabad highlighting the key achievements of the village in the particular sector and in other flagship programmes of Govt. of India. In the village, under Jal Jeevan Mission envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India, 598 Households have been covered with tap water connection ensuring 100 percent FHTC in the village.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) programme of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt. of India, the Gram Panchayat Tushnabad has achieved the title of Open Defecation Free (ODF+). For recharging the ground water table, soak pit were constructed in the Gram Panchayat. 7 soak pits in the year 2021-2022 and 6 soak pits under MGNREGA for BPL families in the year 2022-23 and 11 soak pits for Anganwadi centers, schools, community hall etc.

Shri Vinay Kumar Jindal, Director RD/P, addressed the gathering by saying about the two buildings inaugurated for the betterment of the public. He praised about the good works and initiatives that was depicted in the video

on water sufficient village. He said he will try his best to resolve the issues faced by the people. Concluding he thanked everyone for attending the Gram Sabha.

Felicitation of the Sanitary workers was done by Shri Suneel Anchipaka Secretary RD/P, and in his address he said that, such type of the video should be showcased in other Gram Panchayats which will help people to learn from it and create such resourcefulness for their own village. He expressed about the rain water harvesting systems which should be there for every building to conserve the water. Such Gram Sabhas to be organized, which will be helpful for the betterment of the people, he expressed. And at the end he said that we should adopt the Sustainable Development Goals at local levels for making our village a self sustained village.

This year Gram Panchayats have a pivotal role to play in integrated rural development by focusing on the 17 SDGs which are subsumed under nine themes to ensure Poverty free, Healthy, Child-Friendly, Water Sufficient, Clean & Green, Self-Sufficient, Socially Secured, Good Governance and Engendered Development in village. Three (03) such themes namely Water sufficient Village, Healthy Village and Clean & Green Village was adopted as Sankalp by the Gram Panchayats Tushnabad. Line department officials presented the key activities of their respective department in the Gram Sabha and the general public also put forth their views, grievances in the Gram Sabha.

PM's address..... from page 1

noted that he has felt the positive impact of Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre during his visits to Canada. He remembered the affection and love of Indian origin people during his 2015 visit, in particular. "This statue of Sardar Patel in Sanatan Mandir will not only strengthen our cultural values but will also become a symbol of the relationship between the two countries", the Prime Minister said.

Elaborating on the depth of Indian ethos and values in the diaspora, the Prime Minister said that Indians might live anywhere in the world for any number of generations but their Indianness and loyalty towards India never diminishes. Indians, the Prime Minister said, work with full dedication and integrity for the county of their domicile and carry their democratic values and sense of duty with them. This is because "India is not only a nation but also an idea, it is also a culture. India is that higher level thought- which talks of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'. India does not dream of its own upliftment at the cost of the detriment of others."

The Prime Minister said that the Sanatan Mandir in Canada or any other country enriches the values of that country also. When Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is celebrated in Canada, that is a celebration of shared democratic values. "I believe, this celebration of the Amrit Mahotsav of India's independence will give an opportunity to the people of Canada to understand India more closely", he added.

Calling the location and statue of Sardar Patel there a broad picture of New India, the Prime Minister said that the freedom fighters dreamt of an India that would be modern and progressive and, also, deeply connected with its thinking, philosophy and its roots. That is why, said the Prime Minister, in newly Independent India, Sardar Patel restored the Somnath temple to commemorate the legacy of thousands of years. "Today, during the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are rededicating ourselves to the pledge of creating a New India of Sardar Patel's dream and 'Statue of Unity' is a major inspiration in that", the Prime Minister emphasized. Replica of 'Statue of Unity' in Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre means that India's Amrit pledges are not confined to boundaries of India. This pledge is spreading globally connecting the world, he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated global dimension of the Amrit pledges and said when we talk of Aatmnirbhar Bharat, we talk of opening new possibilities of progress of the world. Similarly, in Yoga's propagation, a feeling of everyone being disease-free is inherent. In issues like sustainable development and climate change, India is representing entire humanity. "Our hard work is not just for us. Welfare of entire humanity is linked with India's progress", The Prime Minister emphasized and concluded by calling for an enhanced role of Indian diaspora in taking this message forward.

PBMC invites registration for..... from page 1

areas that are eligible to participate are fresh water systems, Hydro informatics-use of water, used water management, Urban Water Management, Agricultural Water Management, Urban Sewerage Management, Water Governance and Innovation in conventional taps and plumbing systems.

As per the Citation from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 100 final selected start-ups in the National level will be given a grant amounting to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakh, on fulfilling certain conditions/ milestones of work as per the project pro-

posal. Selected start-ups will be facilitated mentorship support. MoHUA will facilitate scaling up of solutions in partnership with industries & urban local bodies. Start-ups, who achieved desired outcomes, will be promoted for wider visibility.

All entities recognized as start-ups by Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) are eligible. For details refer to <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/startupgov/startup-recognition-page.html>. Start-up must be providing solutions in the aforementioned thematic areas.

The last date of submis-

sion is on 11th May, 2022 by 1730 hours. India Water Pitch-Pilot- Scale Start-up Challenge will be available for application at innovateindia.mygov.in or scan QR code.

The participants can register for the challenge using any valid email-id. Once registration request is made by the applicant, an email will be sent to the registered email-id acknowledging their registration and providing details of the participation process. The registered applicant can upload proposal by choosing 'Participate' button. For more information, visit the above mentioned website or scan the QR code, a press release from PBMC said.

Deptt. of S&T..... from page 1

ship scheme provides opportunities to young scientists for pursuing existing and innovative research. The scheme is focused on young scientist and technologists who have adequate background and training in the field of Science & Technology and encourage academic institutions, national labs and other S&T institutions to avail the benefit under this scheme. For availing the benefit of the above scheme candidate should be less than 35 years of age on the last date of submission of the application. However, age relaxation of 5 years will be given to women/ differently -abled

(Divyangjan)/ SC/ST/ OBC/ EWS).

Interested Women Scientists and Young Scientists who wish to avail the benefit of the mentioned schemes can access the details of these schemes on the website www.dst.gov.in and also any help in this regard, they are free to contact the Department of Science & Technology, Dollygunj at Mob.No.9434277937 on all working days during working hours or email us at dstandamans@gmail.com, a press release from Deptt. of Science & Technology said.

It was really unfair, I could have played the final: Sindhu on controversial point penalty at BAC



PTI, MANILA, May 01: Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu was left in tears after an "unfair" call by the umpires midway through her semifinal match against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi derailed her dream of winning a gold at the Badminton Asia Championships.

Leading 14-11 in the second game after having won the first game, Sindhu was handed a point penalty for taking too much time to serve between points.

The 26-year-old from Hyderabad lost her momentum after that incident, losing 21-13 19-21 16-21 to eventually sign off with a bronze medal, her second in the continental individual championship.

"The umpire told me you're taking a lot of time but the opponent wasn't ready at that point. But the umpire suddenly gave her the point and it was really unfair. I think that was one of the reasons why I lost," said Sindhu after the

match on Saturday.

"I mean that is my feeling because at that moment it was 14-11 and could have become 15-11 but instead, it became 14-12 and she took continuous points. And I think it was very unfair. Maybe I would have won the match and played in the final."

"I told the chief referee, he came and said it is already done. As a chief referee, you need to at least make sure what was the mistake. May be, he should have seen the replay and should have done something about it."

Sindhu's father PV Ramana said Sindhu was extremely disappointed with the decision. "She was confident of winning a gold this time and so was very disappointed. She was crying when she spoke to me but I told her that it is done and dusted and she should forget about it," Ramanna told PTI.

Sindhu was seen having an animated discussion with

the chief referee after the chair umpire asked her to hand over the shuttle to her opponent but it all fell on deaf ears.

"What umpire did was not correct. If she was delaying, then you could have warned her with a yellow card and if you are penalising her with a point then at least show a red card and give the point but there was nothing of that sort," Ramana said.

There were also speculations of Sindhu not accepting the bronze after she skipped the medal ceremony but the star herself put those to rest with a tweet and a candid picture of her posing with medal.

"A medal at the end of an excruciating campaign is always special. This could have gone the distance. Looking forward to the next," Sindhu tweeted. However, Ramana on his part clarified that a formal written permission was sought from the authorities regarding the same.

"Nothing like that, she accepted the medal, it is just that she had to rush for a flight back home, so she took permission from the authorities," he said.

"See Sindhu has to go to Uber Cup (May 8-15, Bangkok) and there were no direct flights available from Manila to India for tomorrow and day after.

"If she had reached on 4th May, she would have missed out of a few days of training ahead of the Uber Cup," the former India spiker said.

Anushka on projects that 'justifies' keeping her away from daughter Vamika



PTI, MUMBAI, May 01: On her 34th birthday on Sunday, actress-producer Anushka Sharma spoke about how she is focussing on being a part of the best scripts that the Hindi film industry has to offer which will make it worth her time to stay away from her year-old toddler Vamika.

Anushka says, "I will always want to be a part of the best scripts that come my way. I feel blessed that I am in a position today to select the type of films that I want to do, which also justifies the time that I will spend away from my child.

"I have always been a seeker of balance in life and my priority now lies there. I want to focus on my work life and my family life in equal measure."

The actress says her fo-

cus is on the quality of the films that she does.

"I'm always looking for these special scripts that fill me up with joy. I will always be open to doing projects that are incredibly interesting, represents women in cinema correctly and is also disruptive and content forward.

"As and when those come to me, I will be more than happy to do it. That's how I'm approaching my career right now," she says.

Anushka will be next seen in 'Chakda Xpress', a film that traces India's fast bowler Jhulan Goswami's inspirational journey as she moves up the ladder despite hindrances posed by misogynistic politics to fulfil her dream of playing the sport for the country.

Oslo Esports Cup: Indian GM Praggnanandhaa falters in final round, finishes fourth

PTI, OSLO, April 29: India's teen Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa missed out on the top prize in the USD 210,000 Oslo Esports Cup online rapid chess tournament as he lost 0.5-2.5 to Dutch player Anish Giri in the seventh and final round to finish fourth.

The 16-year-old Indian, who led the field until the fifth round, could not get past the defences of Giri in the three-game final round match late on Thursday.

He had lost 0.5-2.5 in the sixth round to Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda, who went on to win the tournament.

Praggnanandhaa took fourth place with 12 points behind Duda (14 points), Vietnam's Liem

Quang Le (13) and world No 1 Magnus Carlsen (12) of Norway.

Praggnanandhaa and Carlsen were in the lead prior to the start of the seventh round and the duo faltered, allowing Duda to take the top prize.

Carlsen was stunned 2.5-0.5 by Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the final round.

Round seven started with four players, including Praggnanandhaa, in with a chance, but out of them, only Duda managed to win a match in regulation time and emerged triumphantly.

Pragg, as he is known in chess circles, lost the first game to Dutch star Giri. The Indian youngster kept his hopes alive by hanging on for a draw in the next but it

was all over when he lost the final game. Carlsen, meanwhile, came up against an inspired opponent in Mamedyarov and was outmaneuvered.

Praggnanandhaa had a good tournament, beating the likes of Jorden Van Foreest (the Netherlands), Mamedyarov, Liem Quang Le and Canada's Eric Hansen. His much-awaited clash against Carlsen saw the experienced world No 1 post a crushing 3-0 win. Praggnanandhaa had hit the headlines in February when he defeated Carlsen in an online rapid event.

Oslo Esports Cup online rapid chess tournament is the first major of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour season.

Cleanliness Drives... from page-1



ber, officials, civil society members actively took part in the drives.

The collected wastes were sent to SWM Cluster for further onward processing and recycling through authorized recyclers. An awareness and sensitization was also carried out for the participants towards the safer and smart way of handling of

waste.

The Secretary (RD), Shri Suneel Anchipaka, IAS and Director (RD), Shri Vinay Kumar Jindal also took part in one such event in Mithakhari. The Secretary exhorted the general public to inculcate good civic behavior and work hand in hand with the Administration for a Clean and Green Andaman.